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Colonel Thomas Hunt

Comdg 1st Regt

Kelle Fontaine

The Bearer will deliver his Dog Tasker
to Mrs Hunt with my Compliments

F. Fontaine

№ 16

Sir Belle Fontain Dec.r 23.1807

I had the honour of receiving your Letter of the 22.d Inst.t Wch Think Thanks you for your Politeness. For your Exc-:pditions up the Rivers I presume have been concluded by you and those that know better about these things than I do, and as it is not any Province to have any thing to do with the Indians its out of my Power, to say any thing about the Propriety of the Expeditions that those will judge and decide that are more Acquainted. It appears to me that the want of Trading makes them uneasy, and that such a Branch may be of good ~~[illegible]~~, untill the Genl Government Gives them Orders upon the Business, I will give you every aid in my Power, Procuring you can certainly have upon your return as to the Soldiers, I have the Last Mail wrote the Secretary of war that I had contrary to Orders Detach.d a Number of Men on a Command

Command up the Missouri without
orders and at my own hyfore, that
I had never rec'd an answer written
in reply with his approbation or
not, and that I expected that there
would be similar applications and that
as I had not rec'd any intimation of
approbation or disapprobation that I
did not think myself at liberty
upon Military Principles to detach
any one of my Command ~~with~~ Orders
from the President of the United
States, or Secretary of War which is the
same thing, ~~I~~ with reluctance that
I am obliged to say that I cannot
consent to spare a Man from this
to go on any Expeditions of the kind.
Cantonments and I believe my Prin-
ciples as a Military Man is trust to be
right — I send you three Bundles of
Blowers, and any other article that you
may want in the Provision way

~~I am~~ I am Yours Respectfully

Thos. Hunt

Fredrick Bates Esq.
Act Governor